



# Blackawton Primary School Weekly News



Contact us: [parent@blackawtonprimary.org.uk](mailto:parent@blackawtonprimary.org.uk)  
Please talk to us about any issues or make an appointment.

9th October 2020

## Weekly Attendance Per Class for 5th to 9th October 2020

Class 1 100%, Class 2 100.00%, Class 3 99.11% Class 4 100%, Class 5 96.67%

**Our Attendance Target is 96%**

Teams Nurture, Wonder & Active and Independent have the best attendance this week with 100%!

## Dear Parents

This week I hope you will excuse for me for being a little indulgent and thank all the school staff, both teachers and support staff, who are proud to be educating the children at Blackawton.

On Monday this week it was World Teachers' Day and in a **JOINT STATEMENT FROM UNESCO, ILO, UNICEF AND EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL THIS WAS WHAT WAS SAID**

*"In this crisis, teachers have shown, as they have done so often, great leadership and innovation in ensuring that #LearningNeverStops, that no learner is left behind. Around the world, they have worked individually and collectively to find solutions and create new learning environments for their students to allow education to continue. Their role advising on school reopening plans and supporting students with the return to school is just as important."*

## WORLD TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS IN 2020

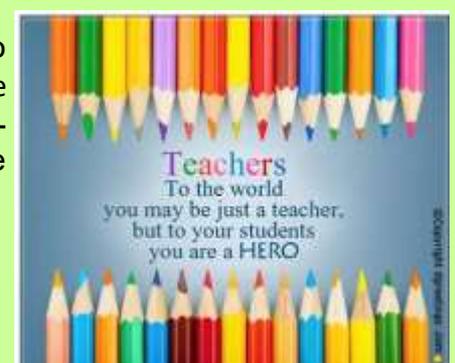
In 2020, World Teachers' Day celebrated teachers with the theme **"Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future"**. The day provided the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, take stock of achievements, and draw attention to the voices of teachers, who are at the heart of efforts to attain the global education target of leaving no one behind.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly added to the challenges faced by already over-extended education systems throughout the world. It is no exaggeration to say that the world is at a crossroads and, now more than ever, we must work with teachers to protect the right to education and guide it into the unfolding landscape brought about by the pandemic.

The issue of teacher leadership in relation to crisis responses is not just timely, but critical in terms of the contributions teachers have made to provide remote learning, support vulnerable populations, re-open schools, and ensure that learning gaps have been mitigated. The discussions surrounding WTD addressed the role of teachers in building resilience and shaping the future of education and the teaching profession.

Thank you to the Green family who sent in this thank you, and to all parents who have contributed so far to the parent survey. We value your opinions, and these will contribute to the School Improvement and Evaluation Plans for the next academic year. The link to the survey is below.

<https://forms.gle/jkAK5urep8M1EmQr6>



## **Community Spirit Award**

This week, at long last, we have presented three children with their Gold Community Spirit Awards for the activities they have completed in the past 6 months.

**Well done to Leo Waller, Lottie Tozer and Phoebe Tozer.**

## **Update from Birka Bekumsa – our link school in Ethiopia**

This week we have received an update from Penny Pullen

*Hi Rachel and all at Blackawton,*

*I know what a really difficult and stressful time you have all had during the last 8 months and therefore left a few weeks this term before getting in touch. My thoughts have been very much with teachers during this time. I hope you all managed to have a good break during August.*

*I thought you would like to know the situation and how your school in Ethiopia is managing. Covid 19 is in Ethiopia, in Addis Ababa and in many other areas and we know there have now been cases in Nekemte, but it does not seem to have spread as fiercely as here.*

*Schools there have been closed since March, but they intend that all schools will open in mid-October. Obviously all our (EEL) projects have been on hold, but in the meantime, we have sent funds for PPE and detergents for the hospital, and for seeds for rural communities.*

*Anyone visiting Ethiopia would have to isolate in Addis Ababa, in a prescribed hotel, for 14 days, and Nekemte is still on the list of places where our Foreign & Commonwealth Office advises only essential travel, so we cannot visit. However, we are in touch with our Ethiopian colleagues in Nekemte and hoping to be able to continue with our education projects as soon as schools open.*

*As soon as schools in Nekemte are functioning again I will let you know, and I will write to the Director and staff of Birka Bekumsa to assure them that we shall continue to support their link with Blackawton, which has been a most successful link for many years. Although we cannot do anything at the moment, I think they would like to know that they are not forgotten. All at Birka Bekumsa are very proud of their link with Blackawton. The really good news is that there are still funds from your last fundraising effort to support their library / librarian for this academic year 2020 / 21, for which they are very grateful. This will give a great opportunity for their pupils to make up the time they have lost.*

*I'm afraid that there is some way to go before we can put this year behind us and get back to anywhere near the normal, we knew, but your school in Ethiopia hopes very much that their link with Blackawton will continue.*

*Very best wishes to you all,*

*Penny*

**Our new Global Citizen group will be working with Mrs Buckle alongside Penny on fund-raising ideas to support Birka Bekumsa over the coming year.**

## **Gold Rights Respecting School**

### **Article of the Week**

Article 28 – the right to education

Every child has the right to an education.

Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child.

Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights.

Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.



**If your child has:**  
**a high temperature**  
**a new, continuous cough, or**  
**a loss of, or change in, sense of**  
**smell or taste**

**This could be a sign of**  
**coronavirus**

**Book a test**

**If your child has:**  
**a runny nose, is sneezing or**  
**feeling unwell**  
**But they don't have:**  
**a high temperature**  
**a new, continuous cough, or**  
**a loss of, or change in,**  
**sense of smell or taste**

**These are**  
**not normally symptoms of**  
**coronavirus**

**Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial**  
**111 or see your GP**

## School Meals

A reminder that school meals should be paid for **in advance**; this can be done on Parentpay. We have quite a lot of money owing for meals. Please login to your account and pay if you know you owe.

If you think that your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please contact Devon County Council either by phone on 0345 155 1019 or by visiting their website portal at:

[https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal\\_LIVE](https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE)

## What's On

When	What	Who	Where
<b>23rd October</b>	Non Pupil Day	Whole School	
<b>6th November</b>	Flu Vaccinations	All Year Groups	In school



### SCHOOL LUNCHES



**We will be on Week 3 of the**  
**Autumn Menu next week**

### NITS

**Nits have been reported**  
**in several classes -**  
**please check your child's**  
**head regularly to try and**  
**keep this under control**



# **SIGNPOST**

## **Parent event: What is Developmental Language Disorder?**

Does your child have language and literacy difficulties? Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) affects 7-10% of children, causing them to struggle in their learning of oral language as well as impacting on their literacy development.

If you would like to learn more about DLD, and language needs in general, including how to support your child at home and how to access further information, please join us for this free, annual training event taking place in recognition of National DLD Awareness Day. This year our session will be virtual.

An advisory teacher and a speech and language therapist from the Communication and Interaction Team will lead this informal session. There will also be an opportunity for questions.

**Wednesday, 14th October 2020 Online (virtual session) 13:30 – 15:00**

To book your free place, please contact: Sue Vanstone [sue.vanstone@babcockinternational.com](mailto:sue.vanstone@babcockinternational.com)

## **Ambassador Volunteer Project**

Ambassador Volunteer Project Update- October 2020

The Ambassador Volunteer project has now been running for just over a year. A lot has happened during that time despite Lockdown.

The Ambassador Volunteer project connects parents within their own communities and more widely into a network across Devon.

Ambassador volunteers are mums and dads of children with SEND and some are professionals and support staff who work with them. What they all have in common is a desire to help families and an understanding of what life is like with a child with special educational needs. Volunteers do two main things:

- They share information from DiAS about all kinds of SEND issues and help parents to access DiAS services. This means parents get the most up to date information and support to help them make decisions and understand what's happening for their family.
- They help parents share their views about Devon services and support through the local Parent Carer Forum. This is a great way to influence policy and change the way services work for children and young people with SEND in Devon.

As part of the Ambassador Volunteer Project we will be offering FREE parent information workshops around Demystifying SEND for parent carers new to the SEND Journey. These sessions have been planned and developed after feedback shared by Ambassador Volunteers.

The Ambassador Volunteer webpage is now LIVE:

<https://www.devonias.org.uk/about-us/the-ambassador-volunteer-project/>

## **DiAS - Devon Information Advice and Support**

The feedback from your our Ambassador Volunteers have been instrumental in helping DiAS develop information advice and guidance to support Devon families e.g. The Covid -19 help sheets, transition back to school, support for virtual meetings, support for EHCP HUB, building relationships with professionals' leaflets.

DiAS really listened and were able to provide a very timely response! See the DiAS information & DiAS resources sections of the website.

Currently DiAS is working on a new leaflet to support virtual meetings and building relationships with professionals.

DiAS officers have been working on an exciting new project to support young people. More information on the video you can find on this link: <https://www.devonias.org.uk/children-youngpeople/>

## **Parent Carer Forum**

Sign up to the Parent carer forum and receive their newsletters and events information. You can contact the co-chairs and feedback parent carer voices and take part in influencing policy in Devon!

<https://parentcarerforumdevon.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/parentcarerforumdevon/>

## Friends of Blackawton School (FOBS)

**FOBS AGM & 2020/2021 Kick Off Meeting - Tuesday 13th October at 7.30pm**

**Please join our meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/495804285>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**

United Kingdom (Toll Free): [0 800 169 0432](tel:08001690432)

United Kingdom: [+44 330 221 0088](tel:+443302210088)

**Access Code:** [495-804-285](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/495804285)



**Reminder** that we are a Nut & Kiwi Fruit Free school as we have pupils with severe allergies to nuts and kiwi.

Please be mindful of what food you send in to school in lunchboxes etc.



### **Music Lessons**

Jess Heywood provides piano and cello lessons in school and has availability.

If your child is interested please contact Jess.

[jess\\_h\\_heywood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jess_h_heywood@yahoo.co.uk)



Tiggy has some availability for new piano and violin students, and there are some violins available for children to borrow.

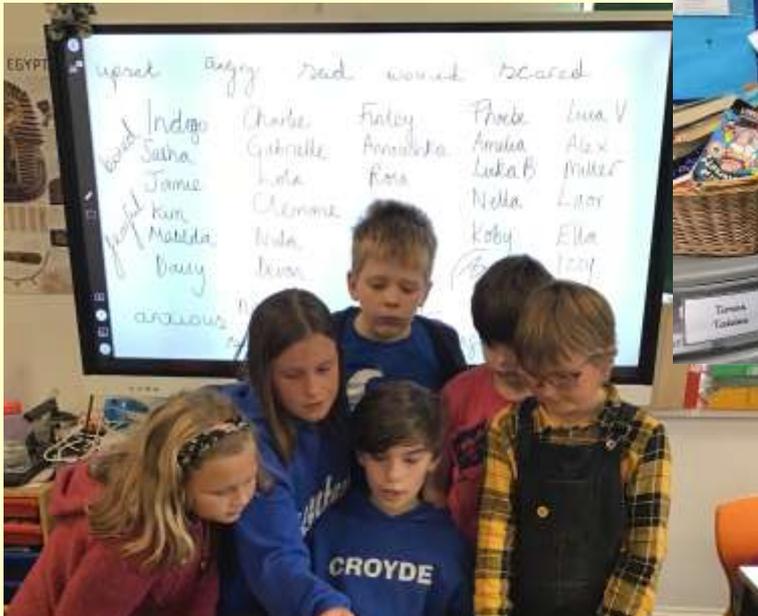
Contact : [tiggykazza@gmail.com](mailto:tiggykazza@gmail.com)

## #Hello Yellow

On Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, Class 5 ran an event to show how we support Young Minds (an organization to help young people's mental health). Blackawton primary school chose this because we realise that people still don't feel comfortable or able to speak up about their feelings and we want to help them feel happy and healthy because a small problem can become a big problem.

Class 5 organised lots of different activities including a photo booth and a challenge to make someone laugh, be kind to a teacher and wave and smile at a friend for all the classes to share and enjoy. We also cut out templates and had a photo booth. We did jokes such as: Why was Cinderella bad at football? She always ran away from the ball. We donated over 80 pounds to help with mental health (Young Minds)

By Nula, Gabrielle, Nuala and Laor.





*Forest*



*School*



*Stone*

*Soup*

